

**ICP WINDOW HEATER INTEGRATED WITH
FARADAY SHIELD OR FLOATING ELECTRODE BETWEEN
THE SOURCE POWER COIL AND THE ICP WINDOW**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. The present invention relates generally to the field of semiconductor processing chambers. More particularly, the present invention relates to an apparatus for regulating the temperature of the lid of a semiconductor processing chamber.
2. It is advantageous to provide temperature control of structures used in plasma processing chambers. That is because of the temperature-dependent changes that occur in the chemical and physical properties of chamber materials, as well as any materials that may be present on the surface of the chamber structures. A significant concern in plasma semiconductor processing is controlling the generation of particulate. Particulate is commonly generated by a build up of various materials on the chamber surfaces that then has a tendency to flake off. The build up of material on the chamber surfaces is hastened if those chamber surfaces are relatively cool, which promotes sublimation of free molecules (ionized or neutral) onto the surfaces. Flaking off of the built up material is promoted by thermal cycling (repeated temperature swings), such as occurs when the plasma is repeatedly started and stopped as successive wafers are processed in the chamber. Thus, both coolness of chamber surfaces and thermal cycling of those surfaces contribute to formation of particulate in semiconductor processing chambers.
3. The formation of particulates can be suppressed to a certain extent by heating the chamber structures to a temperature higher than ambient. The higher temperature minimizes the formation of polymer films on the chamber surfaces and thereby minimizes the amount of particulate production. However, thermal cycling will still cause some amount of particulate to form by ensuring flaking of any film that does form on the chamber surfaces.
4. The chamber surface of most concern for particulate formation is the lid of the chamber because it is directly over the wafer. In the moments after the plasma is extinguished but before the wafer is removed from the chamber, the chamber lid begins to cool and any film that has formed on the lid begins to flake. Those particulate flakes will

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fall onto the wafer before it can make a clean exit from the chamber. Once the wafer has been removed, any particulate that continues to fall from the chamber lid will fall onto the chuck (or pedestal) where the wafers sit while being processed. Particulate landing on the chuck is an additional problem because it may cause the next wafer to have poor electrical contact with the chuck, which would result in an inadvertent modification of the process parameters. Thus, particulate on the chuck contributes to inconsistent production results.

5. Chamber lids are made from many materials, both conductive and non-conductive, depending on the type and design of the chamber. Dielectric materials are often chosen for use in inductively-coupled plasma processing chamber lids owing to their non-conductive properties. In the case of a dielectric lid of an inductively-coupled plasma processing chamber, the lid needs to be non-conductive so that it is transparent to the RF energy necessary for coupling into the chamber to induce a plasma cloud. Thus, any scheme for heating the dielectric structures must necessarily preserve that non-conducting behavior.

6. Unfortunately, heating of dielectric structure of a plasma chamber is often difficult. The dielectric materials commonly used in semiconductor processing vacuum chambers are aluminum-based ceramics and quartz. Both of these types of materials have poor thermal conductivities. The problem of heating a dielectric structure is compounded when it is a large item like the dielectric lids that cover the top of many plasma chambers.

7. Another feature that is often used in inductively-coupled plasma chambers is a Faraday shield, which is generally disposed between the chamber and the RF coil. The shield is used to control the transfer of electric field into the chamber. For more information the reader is directed to U.S. Patent no. 4,918,031 to Flamm *et al.*

8. Thus, what is needed is an apparatus that heats dielectric structures of a processing chamber without detracting from the non-conductive nature of the dielectric structures. Preferably, the heater would be usable in conjunction with a Faraday shield.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

9. It is an aspect of the present invention to provide efficient heating of a plasma chamber structure.

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10. It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a heating assembly arranged on the exterior surface of a plasma chamber lid.

11. It is another aspect of the present invention to provide an integrated heater and voltage distribution electrode assembly arranged on the surface of a plasma chamber lid.

12. It is another aspect of the present invention to provide efficient heating of a dielectric structure without compromising the dielectric properties of the structure.

13. It is another aspect of the present invention to provide a heating assembly arranged on the surface of a dielectric lid in such a way that its elements are perpendicular to the direction of an electromagnetic field that is directed through the dielectric lid.

14. It is yet another aspect of the present invention to provide a heating assembly having piecewise segments that are arranged in a radial manner, connected together by a circular loop portion having a diameter about the same as a dielectric lid on which it rests.

15. It is still another aspect of the present invention to provide a heating assembly having a circular loop portion that incorporates at least one gap to provide an electric break.

16. It is a further aspect of the present invention to provide a heating assembly for the dielectric lid of a plasma processing chamber that is substantially transparent to the RF field generated by the RF coil to generate a plasma inside the chamber.

17. It is an additional aspect of the present invention to provide heating of a dielectric vacuum chamber structure while simultaneously providing a voltage distribution or shielding functionality.

18. The present invention provides for a method and an apparatus that provides efficient heating of a dielectric structure without compromising the dielectric properties of the structure.

19. A heating assembly according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention is adapted to fit a circularly shaped lid of a plasma processing vacuum chamber. The assembly provides a distributed heater over the lid to evenly couple energy onto the lid. The heater is particularly advantageous when used over a dielectric lid of an inductively coupled chamber. In such an arrangement, the heating assembly is placed

between the RF coil and the atmospheric side of the dielectric lid. The RF coil couples energy into the vacuum chamber to thereby excite the process gases inside the chamber into a plasma state. Since it is advantageous to minimize the separation of the coil and the ceramic lid, the heating assembly is designed to conform well to the surface of the dielectric lid and to be thin enough to not substantially increase the distance between the coil and the lid, while at the same time, providing uniform and efficient heating of the dielectric surface.

20. The bottom layer of the heater assembly according to the resistive heating embodiments is preferably constructed from a material that has good thermal conductivity such as aluminum or copper. A resistive heater wire (such as Nichrome wire) is attached to the bottom layer without being electrically connected thereto and is wound along the radial segments and connective circular loop in a manner which maximizes the electromagnetic resistance (i.e., impedance) of the overall heater wire circuit to the electromagnetic fields produced by the coil. A layer of thermal insulating material is placed on the surfaces of the heater elements. This insulating material improves the efficiency of the heater by minimizing heat losses to the ambient air. This insulation is particularly helpful for the embodiments that utilize forced air convection in order to remove excess heat from the surface of the dielectric lid.

21. According to an alternate embodiment, the heating assembly incorporates a fluid channel within the structure of the radial and loop elements. Temperature control of the dielectric lid is achieved in this embodiment by forcing a thermal working fluid, provided from a temperature controlled fluid reservoir, through the channel in the heating assembly. The working fluid provides for heat to be exchanged between the reservoir and the dielectric lid.

22. The active heating structure (either the resistive heating wire or the thermal working fluid) portion of the heating assembly is transparent to the electromagnetic fields produced by the RF coil.

23. Voltage distribution or shielding functionality is provided by the electrically conductive structures incorporated into the heating assembly, thereby providing an integrated heater/voltage distribution of shielding assembly.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

24. Additional objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent in the following detailed description read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing figures.

25. Fig. 1 illustrates a conceptual diagram with a partial cross-sectional view of a wafer processing apparatus embodied according to the present invention.

26. Fig. 2 illustrates a plan view of a wiring pattern for a resistive heating element according to one embodiment of the present invention.

27. Fig. 3 illustrates a partial cut-away plan view of an electrical heating assembly according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

28. Fig. 4 illustrates a partial cut-away plan view of an electrical heating assembly according to another alternate embodiment of the present invention.

29. Fig. 5 illustrates a partial cut-away plan view of an electrical heating assembly according to a further alternate embodiment of the present invention.

30. Fig. 6 illustrates a partial cut-away plan view of a fluid heating assembly according to still another alternate embodiment of the present invention.

31. Fig. 7 illustrates a cross-sectional detail view of an electrical heating element, according to various embodiments of the present invention, disposed on a dielectric lid of a vacuum chamber.

32. Fig. 8 illustrates a cross-sectional detail view of a fluid heating element, according to various embodiments of the present invention, disposed on a dielectric lid of a vacuum chamber.

33. Fig. 9 illustrates a partial cut-away plan view of a fluid heating assembly according to a further alternate embodiment of the present invention.

34. Fig. 10 illustrates a cross-sectional detail view of a fluid heating element, according to the embodiment of Fig. 9, disposed on a dielectric lid of a vacuum chamber.

35. Fig. 11 illustrates a partial cross-sectional view of a wafer processing apparatus according to another alternate embodiment.

36. Fig. 12 illustrates a cross-sectional detail view of an electrical heating assembly, according to the embodiment of Fig. 11.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

37. According to some embodiments, the present invention is embodied as a heating element, a voltage distribution electrode (including a Faraday shield), and a processing chamber in combination with one another. The heating element may be embodied using either fluid (as a conduit for a thermal working fluid to flow through) or electricity (as an electrical heating element).

38. According to other embodiments, the present invention is embodied as a temperature management apparatus for promoting thermal uniformity for a chamber wall using electricity. The apparatus includes a substrate and a resistive heating element. The substrate has a predetermined shape and has edges. The resistive heating element is disposed on the substrate adjacent to the edges of the substrate. The substrate is adapted to provide thermal communication between the resistive heating element and the chamber wall.

39. The predetermined shape is selected so as to promote even distribution of heat energy over the chamber wall. Preferably the predetermined shape has substantial radial symmetry. According to one embodiment, the substrate is shaped to have plural radial elements and a circular element, disposed at the periphery of the substrate, that joins the plural radial elements together. According to another embodiment, the substrate is shaped to have plural radial elements and a circular element, disposed near the center of the substrate, that joins the plural radial elements together. According to either of these embodiments, the circular elements employed are interrupted by at least one gap formed therein. Preferably the substrate is electrically conductive so that it forms a voltage distribution electrode.

40. According to another set of embodiments, the present invention is embodied as a temperature management apparatus for promoting thermal uniformity for a chamber wall using heated fluid. The apparatus includes a conduit and a thermal working fluid. The fluid conduit has a predetermined shape and has a substantially flattened cross section. The thermal working fluid is disposed in and flows through the fluid conduit.

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41. According to a further embodiment, a resistive heating element is used as a heater, while a fluid flow is used for the thermal management, such as reducing transients caused by on/off cycling of the resistive element and/or removing heat from the lid when needed.

42. Certain optional features are advantageously used in conjunction with any of the electricity or heated fluid embodiments. Optionally, the apparatus may include a fan disposed near the resistive heating element so as to remove excess heat energy. Another feature that is optionally employed to enhance effectiveness of the invention is the combination of a temperature sensor and a temperature control circuit. The temperature sensor is adapted to be disposed in intimate contact with the chamber wall so as to generate a temperature signal indicative of the temperature of the chamber wall. The power control circuit is connected to receive the temperature signal as a feedback signal so as to provide a controlled amount of heat energy to the resistive heating element, or to the working fluid, as the case may be.

43. An apparatus for processing semiconductor wafers according to the present invention includes a vacuum chamber and a temperature management apparatus. The vacuum chamber is adapted to receive the semiconductor wafers therein, and has a chamber wall. The temperature management apparatus preferably includes both a heater and a fan (although the heater alone is sufficient). The heater is disposed outside of the vacuum chamber in thermal contact with the chamber wall. The fan is disposed near the heater to remove excess heat energy. Alternatively, the temperature management apparatus includes a controller operating a resistive heater in conjunction with working fluid channels.

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44. Such an apparatus according to the present invention for processing semiconductor wafers also may include an RF coil and a voltage distribution electrode. The RF coil is disposed adjacent to the vacuum chamber so as to couple RF energy into the vacuum chamber. The heater is disposed between the RF coil and the chamber wall. The voltage distribution electrode is disposed between the heater and the chamber wall. Preferably, the heater is substantially electrically transparent to the RF energy coupled into the chamber.

45. Rather than a voltage distribution electrode, such an apparatus according to the present invention for processing a semiconductor wafer is optionally embodied with a

Faraday shield having variable shielding efficiency. The Faraday shield is disposed between the heater and the dielectric wall.

46. A Faraday shield is generally understood in the art to be a layer or plate of conductive material disposed between the RF antenna and the lid of the chamber electrically connected (at least indirectly) to ground. A voltage distribution electrode is generally understood in the art to be a layer or plate of conductive material disposed between the RF antenna and the lid of the chamber, that is either connected to ground or is electrically floating. Thus, a voltage distribution electrode is considered to be a general concept that encompasses within its scope a Faraday shield, as well as other conductive electrodes regardless of how they relate to the system electrically.

47. According to alternate configurations, the dielectric wall is a flat lid, a dome-shaped lid, or another suitable geometry.

48. Referring to **Fig. 1**, a conceptual diagram with a partial cross-section view of a wafer processing apparatus embodied according to the present invention is illustrated. The vacuum chamber **110** has a dielectric lid **112**. A pumping port **114** evacuates the chamber **110** to a pressure substantially below atmosphere (e.g., $\sim 10^{-4}$ torr). A semiconductor wafer **116** workpiece to be processed rests on a pedestal **117** that places the wafer **116** in a position so as to be exposed to a plasma cloud **118** of selected process gases introduced into the chamber via a process gas inlet **119**.

49. A heating assembly **130** is placed between the RF coil **120** and the atmospheric side of the dielectric lid **112**. The RF coil **120** couples energy into the vacuum chamber **110** to thereby excite the process gases inside the chamber into a plasma state so as to form the plasma cloud **118**. Since it is advantageous to minimize the separation of the RF coil **120** and the dielectric lid **112** (for most efficient energy coupling), the heating assembly **130** is designed to conform well to the surface of the dielectric lid **112** and to be thin enough to not substantially increase the distance between the RF coil **120** and the lid **112**, while at the same time, providing uniform and efficient heating of the dielectric surface.

50. The heating assembly **130** is provided with power from a variable duty cycle switched power supply **132**. A command signal for selecting the duty cycle for how much

AC power the power supply **132** provides is received from a temperature control circuit **134**. A temperature sensor **136** that is embedded in the dielectric lid **112** provides feedback to the temperature control circuit **134**.

51. A low pass filter **138** is electrically coupled to the heating assembly **130** to suppress any potential resonance in the heating assembly **130** with respect to the RF energy emanating from the RF coil **120**.

52. A fan **140** provides forced air flow directed at the heating assembly **130** and the dielectric lid **112** to remove excess heat. The fan **140** is mounted on a housing **142** that surrounds the RF coil **120** and the heating assembly **130**, and that rests on the top of the vacuum chamber **110**.

53. Referring to **Fig. 2**, a plan view of a wiring pattern for a resistive heating element according to one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. A heating assembly according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention is adapted to fit a circularly-shaped lid that serves as the vacuum lid of a plasma processing vacuum chamber. This heating assembly is particularly useful for use in an inductively-coupled chambers having a dielectric lid. Accordingly, in much of the remaining description reference is made to a dielectric lid. However, it should be understood that the lid may also be used in other lids that are not made of a dielectric material.

54. A resistive heating element **200** follows a path on the circularly-shaped dielectric lid that provides for an even heating of the lid. The resistive heating element **200** rests atop substrate **205** that is shown in phantom. The arrowheads along the resistive heating element **200** illustrate flow of electricity. Preferably, the wiring pattern is embodied so as to have a continuous path that provides for current flow in both directions (i.e., both forward and back) along each of the radial segments and the connecting arcuate portions. The reason for the consistent juxtaposition of conductors with current flowing in opposite directions is so that their electromagnetic fields will cancel one another out.

55. Referring to **Fig. 3**, a partial cut-away plan view of an electrical heating assembly according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. One aspect of this heating assembly **300** is that the heating assembly is arranged on the surface of a dielectric lid in such a way that its elements are perpendicular to the direction of an

electromagnetic field that is directed through the dielectric lid to generate a plasma cloud. Piecewise segments **302**, **304** of the heating assembly **300** are arranged in a radial manner, connected together by a circular loop portion **306** having a diameter about the same as the dielectric lid. Electrical power is input via the power leads **308**.

56. The partial cut-away portion of the view (in the lower right quadrant) shows the top layer of foam insulation **307** stripped away to expose the heater wire **309** resting on the substrate layer **305**. The heater wire **309** is laid out along the piecewise segments **302**, **304** and the circular loop portion **306** in an analogous fashion to the wiring pattern shown fully in Fig. 2.

57. The circular loop portion **306** preferably incorporates at least one gap **310** to provide an electric break. The purpose of the electrical break provided by the gap **310** is to prevent flow of an electric current in the heating assembly that would otherwise be induced by the electro-magnetic field of the RF coil.

58. Referring to **Fig. 4**, a partial cut-away plan view of an electrical heating assembly according to another alternate embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. In this embodiment, the radially aligned piecewise segments **402** of the heating assembly **400** are connected together by a circular loop portion **406** that is much smaller than the diameter of the dielectric lid. Electrical power is input via the power leads **408**. The circular loop **406** contains one or more gaps **410** to provide electric breaks that to prevent electromagnetically induced current from flowing in the heater assembly **400**.

59. The partial cut-away portion of the view (in the upper right quadrant) shows the top layer of foam insulation **407** stripped away to expose the heater wire **409** resting on the bottom layer **405**. The heater wire **409** is laid out along the circular loop portion and **406** the radially aligned piecewise segments **402** in an analogous fashion to the wiring pattern shown fully in Fig. 2.

60. Referring to **Fig. 5**, a partial cut-away plan view of an electrical heating assembly according to a further alternate embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. In this embodiment, the heating assembly **500** is configured as a pair of semicircular halves **510**, **520**, which are separated from one another by gaps **530**. Piecewise segments **512**, **514** of the semicircular half **510** of the heating assembly **500** are arranged in a radial manner and

are connected together by a semi-circular portion 516. Piecewise segments 522, 524 of the other semicircular half 520 of the heating assembly 500 are also arranged in a radial manner and are connected together by a semi-circular portion 526. Each of the semicircular halves 510, 520 has a radius of curvature about half the diameter of the dielectric lid. Electrical power is input via the power leads 518, 528.

61. The partial cut-away portion of the view (on the right side) shows the top layer of foam insulation 527 stripped away to expose the heater wire 529 resting on the bottom layer 525. The heater wire 529 is laid out along the piecewise segments 522, 524 and the semi-circular portion 526 in an analogous fashion to the wiring pattern shown fully in Fig. 2.

62. The spacing of the radial segments 512, 514, 522, 524 used in the heating assembly 500 is chosen to maintain a uniform temperature on the inner surface (i.e., vacuum side) of the dielectric lid. The spacing is preferably chosen so as to allow enough area between adjacent radial segments 512, 514, 522, 524 in order to remove excess heat from the dielectric lid outer surface (i.e., atmosphere side) by forced air conduction, while still achieving a uniform temperature on the inner surface due to the heat conduction within the dielectric lid.

63. It is not necessary that this embodiment use two separate heaters for the two halves. Indeed for sake of simplicity it is preferable to implement this embodiment with a single heater wire powered by a single supply and controlled by a single power controller. In the single heater implementation of the embodiment of Fig. 5, the heater wires simply bridge across the gaps 530, along with the foam top layer 527. Although this creates a closed loop heater wire, this is not a point of concern since the heater wire has a sufficiently high impedance so as to keep any RF field induced eddy currents to a negligible level.

64. Referring to Fig. 6, a partial cut-away plan view of a fluid heating assembly according to still another alternate embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. The heating assembly 600 according to this embodiment incorporates a continuous fluid channel within the structure of the radial segments 602 and arcuate segments 604, 606 connecting the radial segments 602 together. Temperature control of the dielectric lid is achieved in this embodiment by forcing a thermal working fluid, provided from a

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temperature controlled fluid reservoir (via the fluid connections **608**), through the channel in the heating assembly **600**. The working fluid provides for heat to be exchanged between the reservoir and the lid. The partial cut-away portion of the view (on the right side) shows the fluid channel **610** that carries thermal working fluid the length of the heating assembly **600**.

65. The fluid heating assembly may be embodied using varying geometry without departing from the scope of the invention. Any circular segments used to connect together radial segments will be provided with one or more gaps so that they do not form a full circle.

66. Fig. 6 also illustrates (in phantom) an aspect of the present invention that is optional for incorporation into any of the embodiments. The voltage distribution electrodes (i.e., heater assembly substrates) according the various embodiments are optionally connectable to ground through a variable impedance **620**. The shielding properties of the voltage distribution electrode can be manipulated by varying the value of the variable impedance **620**.

67. Referring to Fig. 7, a cross-sectional detail view of an electrical heating assembly, according to various embodiments of the present invention, disposed on a dielectric lid of a vacuum chamber is illustrated. The bottom layer **710** of the heating assembly according to the resistive heating embodiments is preferably constructed from anodized aluminum, but can be suitably constructed from any material that has good thermal conductivity (e.g., aluminum or copper). The bottom layer **710** is placed in direct contact with the dielectric lid **720** so as to provide good thermal communication therewith. The resistive heater wire segments **730**, **731** (formed from material such as Nichrome wire) are attached to the bottom layer **710** without being electrically connected thereto and are wound along the radial segments and connective circular loop (refer to Figs. 2 to 5) in a manner which maximizes the electromagnetic resistance (i.e., impedance) of the overall heater wire circuit to the electromagnetic fields produced by the coil. The heater supply current flows in opposite directions in the adjacent wire segments **730**, **731**. That is to say, the current flows into the page for one segment **730** and out of page for its adjacent segment **731**, for example.

68. The heating elements according to the electrical embodiments are preferably operated using low frequency alternating current (50 to 60 Hz), so that the connection of a low pass filter with the resistive heater wire is sufficient to effectively prevent the RF energy of the coil from inducing current flow in the resistive heater wire.

69. A layer of thermal insulating material **740** (preferably foamed polymer) is placed on the surfaces of the heater wire **730** and may extend over the bottom layer **710**. This insulating material layer **740** improves the efficiency of the heating assembly by minimizing heat losses to the ambient air. This insulation is particularly helpful for the embodiments that utilize forced air convection in order to remove excess heat from the outer (i.e., top) surface of the dielectric lid **720**.

70. The electrical heating assembly is optionally secured to the lid **720** by a mechanical clamp **750** (shown in phantom) or is secured by an adhesive bond between the lid **720** and the bottom layer **710** by a heat conductive epoxy. If the RF coil is sufficiently heavy, then the weight of the RF coil alone, resting on the electrical heating assembly, can be used to secure the electrical heating assembly to the top of the lid **720**.

71. Also shown in phantom is an optional variable impedance **760** connectable between the bottom layer **710** and ground potential. The shielding properties of the bottom layer **710** can be manipulated by varying the value of the variable impedance **760**.

72. Referring to **Fig. 8**, a cross-sectional detail view of a fluid heating assembly, according to various embodiments of the present invention, disposed on a dielectric lid of a vacuum chamber is illustrated. The heating assembly incorporates a fluid channel **810** within the structure of the radial segments and the connecting arcuate segments of a conductive conduit **820**. Temperature control of the dielectric lid **830** is achieved in this embodiment by forcing a thermal working fluid **840**, provided from a temperature controlled fluid reservoir, through the channel **810** in the heating assembly. The working fluid **840** provides for heat to be exchanged between the reservoir and the dielectric lid **830**. A layer of thermal insulating material **850** is placed on the surfaces of the conductive conduit **820**. This insulating material layer **850** improves the efficiency of the heating assembly by minimizing heat losses to the ambient air.

73. Referring to **Fig. 9**, a partial cut-away plan view of a fluid heating assembly according to a further alternate embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. The heating assembly **900** according to this embodiment incorporates a pair of continuous fluid channels within the structure of the radial segments **902** and arcuate segments **904**, **906** connecting the radial segments **902** together. Temperature control of the dielectric lid is achieved in this embodiment by forcing a thermal working fluid in a first direction through the outer channel (via the fluid connections **908**), and in a second direction through the inner channel (via the fluid connections **911**) in the heating assembly **900**. The working fluid is supplied from a temperature controlled reservoir and provides for heat to be exchanged between the reservoir and the dielectric lid. The partial cut-away portion of the view (in the upper right quadrant) shows the dual (inner and outer) fluid channels that carry thermal working fluid (in opposite directions) the length of the heating assembly **900**.

74. Referring to **Fig. 10**, a cross-sectional detail view of a fluid heating element, according to the embodiment of Fig. 9, is illustrated. The heating assembly incorporates an inner fluid channel **1010** and an outer fluid channel **1012** in tandem with one another within the structure of the radial segments and the connecting arcuate segments of a conductive conduit **1020**. Temperature control of the dielectric lid **1030** is achieved in this embodiment by forcing a thermal working fluid **1040**, provided from a temperature controlled fluid reservoir, in a first direction through the inner channel **1010** and in an opposite direction through the outer channel **1012**. The working fluid **1040** provides for heat to be exchanged between the reservoir and the dielectric lid **1030**.

75. The primary advantage of this embodiment compared to the other fluid embodiment (see Figs. 6 and 8) is that it provides better temperature uniformity over the surface of the chamber lid. By running fluid in opposite directions, the temperature gradient of the working fluid in the conduits cancels out. The trade off, though, is that the dual channel embodiment is more complex to implement.

76. A layer of thermal insulating material **1050** is placed on the surfaces of the conductive conduit **1020**. This insulating material layer **1050** improves the efficiency of the heating assembly by minimizing heat losses to the ambient air.

77. Referring to **Fig. 11**, a conceptual diagram with a partial cross-sectional view of a wafer processing apparatus according to another alternate embodiment is illustrated. The vacuum chamber **1110** has a dielectric lid **1112**. A wafer is processed inside the chamber **1110** by a plasma cloud adjacent the lid **1112**. Refer to the description of Fig. 1 for a more detailed explanation of the functionality inside the chamber.

78. In this alternate embodiment, a heating assembly (a heating element **1130** in combination with a conductive substrate **1140**) is placed between the RF coil **1120** and the atmospheric side of the dielectric lid **1112**. The RF coil **1120** couples energy into the vacuum chamber **1110** to thereby excite the process gases inside the chamber into a plasma state. The heating assembly according to this embodiment includes a conductive substrate **1140** that is disposed between the lid **1112** and the electrical heating element portion **1130** of the heating assembly. The conductive substrate **1140** has one or more fluid conduits formed therein to convey thermal working fluid to and from a temperature regulated fluid reservoir. The conductive substrate **1140** is either permitted to float, or is optionally connected to ground via a variable impedance.

79. The heating element **1130** is provided with electrical power from a variable duty cycle switched power supply, which receives feedback loop commands from a temperature controller that monitors a temperature sensor at the lid **1112**. The operation of this thermal control loop is analogous to that described with respect to Fig. 1. Resonance of RF energy in the heating assembly is suppressed by a low pass filter.

80. Optionally, a fan **1150** provides forced air flow directed at the heating assembly and the dielectric lid **1112** to remove excess heat. The fan **1150** is mounted on a housing **1152** that surrounds the RF coil **1120** and the heating assembly, and that rests on the top of the vacuum chamber **1110**.

81. The heating assembly (which is shown only conceptually in Fig. 11) is advantageously embodied so as to have the general shape (in plan view) of the heating assembly shown in any of Figs. 2-6 and 9. The cross-sectional view, though, is substantially different.

82. Referring to **Fig. 12**, a cross-sectional detail view of an electrical heating assembly, according to the embodiment of Fig. 11 is illustrated. The conductive bottom layer (or

substrate) 1210 is placed in direct contact with the dielectric lid 1120 so as to provide good thermal communication therewith. The resistive heater wire segments 1230, 1231 are attached to the bottom layer 1210 without being electrically connected thereto and are wound along the radial segments and connective circular loop (refer to Figs. 2 to 5) in a manner which maximizes the electromagnetic resistance (i.e., impedance) of the overall heater wire circuit to the electromagnetic fields produced by the coil. The heater supply current flows in opposite directions in the adjacent wire segments 1230, 1231.

83. The heating assembly incorporates a pair of fluid channels 1262, 1264 in tandem with one another within the structure of the radial segments and the connecting arcuate segments of the conductive bottom layer 1210. A thermal working fluid 1266, provided from a temperature controlled fluid reservoir, is forced in a first direction through one fluid channel 1262 and in an opposite direction through the adjacent channel 1264. The working fluid 1266 provides for heat to be exchanged between the reservoir and the dielectric lid 1220.

84. A layer of thermal insulating material 1240 is placed on the surfaces of the heater wire segments 1230, 1231 and may extend over the bottom layer 1210. This insulating material layer 1240 improves the efficiency of the heating assembly by minimizing heat losses to the ambient air. This insulation is particularly helpful for the embodiments that utilize forced air convection in order to remove excess heat from the outer (i.e., top) surface of the dielectric lid 1220.

85. The electrical heating assembly is optionally secured to the lid 1220 by a mechanical clamp 1250 (shown in phantom) or is secured by an adhesive bond between the lid 1220 and the bottom layer 1210 by a heat conductive epoxy.

86. The embodiment illustrated by Figs. 11 and 12 has plural operational modes. In a first operational mode, the working fluid is heated in the fluid reservoir to a temperature above ambient and functions to smooth out thermal transients. Thermal transients arise due to the sudden step changes caused when the electrical heating element is energized and de-energized or when the fan 1150 is turned on and off (if the fan is incorporated). The constant flow of heated fluid in the channels 1262, 1264 of the conductive bottom layer 1210 serves as a stabilizing influence.

87. According to a second operational mode, the working fluid is cooled in the fluid reservoir so that it may serve as a mechanism for removing heat from the lid 1220. In this operational mode the conductive bottom layer 1210 itself serves as a cooling device in place of the fan 1150.

88. Of course, in the case of either of these operating modes, the conductive bottom layer 1210 continues to function to distribute electric potential evenly across the lid 1220 and, when grounded, to act as a shield.

89. Another feature of the invention is that it maintains a more uniform electromagnetic potential across the dielectric lid. The bottom layer of the heating assembly (alternatively, the conductive conduit in the fluid embodiments) forms a voltage distribution electrode that develops an electromagnetic potential that is approximately equal to the spatially average potential determined over the entire area defined by the heating assembly. Thus, although the active heating structure (either the resistive heating wire or the thermal working fluid) portion of the heating assembly is transparent to the electromagnetic fields produced by the coil that penetrate the dielectric lid and generate the plasma, the conductive portion of the heating assembly takes on the role of shaping the electric potential produced by the coil. The result of this averaging is the minimization of detrimental effects of electromagnetic potentials that are too high (e.g., sputtering of the dielectric by the plasma) and of electromagnetic potentials that are too low (e.g., heavy by-product depositions on the dielectric lid). The simultaneous control of both the temperature of the dielectric lid and the electrostatic potential in the region directly adjacent to the lid produces conditions that are very favorable for achieving the desired plasma process results on the workpiece.

90. Although the description has consistently referred to the chamber lid as being made from a dielectric, this is simply a non-limiting example of how the present invention may be implemented. Certainly the present invention is applicable in the context of semiconductor processing chambers having lids and walls made of any conductive or non-conductive materials.

91. The present invention has been described in terms of preferred embodiments, however, it will be appreciated that various modifications and improvements may be made to the described embodiments without departing from the scope of the invention.

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